6 - Take Five

Five basic views are needed – **front, rear, left side, right side** and a **three-quarter front view** shot.

Front and Rear Views

- Best as vertical image
- Position so that head, front and hind legs can be seen
- Space legs apart so that all markings can be seen
- Make sure that the ears are erect
- The tail should not obscure any markings, if necessary braid the tail.

- Best as horizontal image
- Be sure that head and ears are erect, and that the legs are spaced apart so all markings can be seen.

Three Quarter View

This is your horse's glamour shot. The one most likely to appear on the registration certificate.

- Best as vertical image
- Position so that head, front and hind legs can be seen
- Space legs apart so that all markings can be seen
- Make sure that the ears are erect
- The tail should not obscure any markings, if necessary braid the tail.
- Make sure people or other horses are not in the photo

For additional information visit our Web site at *www.aqha.com*, or call 806-376-4811

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Picture This

What you need to know to take correct photos for your AQHA registration application

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

You Ought To Be In Pictures

Your American Quarter Horse Association Certificate of Registration can now include a photo of your horse.

Submitting the correct photos will help in the registration process so you'll get your papers sooner. Good, clear photos also will help verify markings and may avoid the need for a physical inspection.

These photos will help with the identification of your horse at AQHA shows, races and other competitions, or in the event your horse is stolen or missing.

1 - The Right Equipment

To ensure success in taking photos of your horse, it is important to have the right equipment.

AVOID INSTANT CAMERAS. Use a high-quality 35mm or digital camera. Instant cameras tend to overexpose and fade the image making them difficult to use.

With a digital camera, the higher the megapixel rating, the sharper the final image will be. Please use a camera that provides at least 1 megapixel resolution and mail the photos on a jump drive. Be sure to label the jump drive with the horse's name and registration number, or the year foaled and dam's name and registration number.

2 - The Right Time

Take photos on a sunny day. You'll want the horse's shadow to fall away from you behind the horse. Have the sun behind your back, but be aware of your own shadow. It should not fall across the horse.

Try to use soft late afternoon or early morning natural light for outdoor photos. While some shadows will be unavoidable, use the fill flash to lessen shadows that may be present.

3 - The Right Place

You'll want a location where the background is uncluttered and a contrasting color of your horse. The ground should be level, and grass or snow should not be tall enough to obscure markings near the hoof area.

Pay attention to items in the background that might be distracting.

4 - The Right Preparation

Make sure the horse is without a saddle or blanket. and free from mud or debris that might be mistaken for markings. Pull back the forelock so head markings can be seen. If necessary, braid the tail so that rear leg markings can be seen.

It is important that you be patient. Take photos when the horse's ears are erect. Do not take a photo when the horse is grazing as the conformation may not appear correct.

5 - The Right Photo Setup

Please keep in mind, you're not taking a picture to promote your horse. This photo is designed to help identify your horse.

Frame your photos tightly, keeping the foreground and background to a minimum. Remember to always get all four feet and legs in every photo.

If the horse has markings that fall out of normal marking area, (spots on belly or between the legs) take closeup photos. Shave the area with a razor (not clippers) and hold a ruler under or beside the area, taking care not to cover the area, so the measurement and pink skin can be seen.

Take separate close-up photos of unusual markings or brands. These photos should be taken close enough so the markings can be seen yet are in focus.